

BOARD OF SUPERVISORS

Brown County



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VETERANS SUBCOMMITTEE

Jack Krueger, Chair
Sherry Steenbock, Vice Chair
Donald Bettine, John Walschinski
James Haskins, Kristen Verhaagh, Duane Pierce

**Running Total of Veterans' Certificates: 1093

VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE

Tuesday, April 14, 2009

****5:15 p.m.****

Room 201, Northern Building
305 E. Walnut Street

1. Call meeting to order.
2. Invocation by Jim Haskins.
3. Approve/modify agenda.
4. Approve/modify minutes of March 10, 2009.
5. Report from Jim Haskins on Brown County Fair.
6. Report from John Maino (if available) on Brown County Veterans Commission
Funding possibility of selling cups, bumper stickers, etc.
7. Report from Chair Jack Krueger.
8. Report from committee members.
9. Report from Jerry Polus (CVS, if available.)
 - a) Vet Center.
10. Such other matters as authorized by law.

Jack Krueger, Chair

Notice is hereby given that action by Committee may be taken on any of the items which are described or listed in this agenda.

Please take notice that it is possible additional members of the Board of Supervisors may attend this meeting, resulting in a majority or quorum of the Board of Supervisors. This may constitute a meeting of the Board of Supervisors for purposes of discussion and information gathering relative to this agenda.

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**PROCEEDINGS OF THE BROWN COUNTY
VETERANS' RECOGNITION SUBCOMMITTEE**

Pursuant to Section 19.84, Wis. Stats. a regular meeting of the **Brown County Veterans' Recognition Subcommittee** was held on Tuesday, March 9, 2010, at 5:15 p.m., in Room 201 of the Northern Building, 305 E. Walnut Street, Green Bay, Wisconsin.

PRESENT: Jack Krueger—Chair, Jim Haskins, John Maino, Duane "Snake" Pierce, Sherry Steenbock, John Walschinski.
EXCUSED: Don Bettine, Troy Ness, Kristen Verhaagh.
ALSO PRESENT: Jerry Polus, Joe Witkowski.

1. **Call Meeting to Order:**
The meeting was called to order by Chairman Jack Krueger at 5:15 p.m.
2. **Invocation by Jim Haskins**
3. **Approve/Modify Agenda:**

A motion was made by S. Steenbock and seconded by J. Walschinski to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
4. **Approve/Modify Minutes of February 9, 2010:**

A motion was made by D. Pierce and seconded by J. Haskins to approve. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.
5. **Report from CVSO Jerry Polus (if available):**
Mr. Polus, Veterans Service Officer, reported that the receptionist has been brought back on a temporary basis; but there is still a backlog because of the high volume of calls, walk-ins, and appointments. He said members of the 127th continue to come in for assistance each day. Mr. Polus added that he will present his updated job description by next month.

Mr. Polus said the monthly program at the ADRC (Aging & Disability Resource Center) continues to be well attended. He stated that there were approximately 70 people in attendance last Friday, when Rolling Thunder performed the Table Ceremony and Flag Folding Ceremony. He opined that this was a great program and that those present enjoyed the experience. Mr. Polus reported that Beth Ann Smith, Program Manager for the VA Medical Center in Milwaukee, will be speaking on VA health care and the Green Bay clinic next month.

Mr. Polus informed those present that he had just returned from Chippewa Falls, Wisconsin, where he met with Peter Olk. He explained that Mr. Olk ran Armitage House in DePere, which is transitional housing for veterans. Mr. Polus reported that Mr. Olk expressed an interest in utilizing the old Mental Health Center as a potential site for a nationwide model program called a veterans' service center. Mr. Polus described the vision of this facility as a one-stop shop that would house a variety of services for veterans. He added that this property is in close proximity to the new mega clinic.

Chair Krueger opined that the possibilities are endless and stated that the Facility Master Plan Subcommittee has been apprised of this. He stated that he mentioned this to Congressman Steve Kagen, and Congressman Kagen offered his support.

Mr. Polus said he plans to send information about Armitage and the center in Chippewa Falls to the Subcommittee members with next month's agenda and minutes.

6. Report from Chair Jack Krueger:

At Chair Krueger's request, John Walschinski explained his proposal for a veterans' update section in the "Green Bay Press-Gazette" newspaper. Mr. Walschinski distributed copies of the response from John Dye, Executive Editor, as well as suggestions for a possible reply (attached).

Chair Krueger said Mr. Walschinski's ideas were well received at last month's meeting and asked John Maino for possible options other than the "Press-Gazette." Mr. Maino said there are many other mediums that could be used; and with television the coverage could be just as good especially with the internet aspect. Mr. Maino offered to make the first contact with Fox 11 television station. He stated that the smaller newspapers could be an option as well and suggested including sponsors.

Mr. Maino recommended setting up a website. Mr. Walschinski said he had some contacts who could possibly (1) help with setting up the website; (2) act as spokespersons; and (3) help with advertising. Mr. Polus explained to those present that his office has a website that could be used. He also suggested bringing in speakers monthly to either radio or television who could discuss veterans' issues.

Chair Krueger said he would like to see an approach to Fox 11 and utilizing the Brown County website.

(John Maino left at 6:01 p.m.)

7. Report from Committee Members (Steenbock, Bettine, Haskins, Maino, Pierce, Verhaagh, & Walschinski):

Sherry Steenbock read a thank you letter from a veteran who received a certificate from this Subcommittee (attached). Ms. Steenbock said information will be placed on the certificates using computer software instead of hand-written calligraphy in the future. Mr. Polus opined that these certificates are greatly appreciated by recipients.

Jim Haskins read an article from the Press-Gazette concerning a program entitled "War, Art, and the Vietnam Veteran" which will be held at Heritage Hill from April 13 to May 31, 2010. (See attachment from internet.) Mr. Haskins mentioned two bills sponsored by Congressman Kagen: Bill 3548 is for first-time homebuyers' tax credit for men/women serving overseas; and Bill 2352 is for job creation for returning veterans. Mr. Haskins added that the three certificates he delivered were very well received.

Duane Pierce noted an article concerning a man doing a 2,650 mile trek from Jacksonville (Florida) to San Diego (California) who is hoping to collect \$400,000 to help the DAV (Disabled American Veterans). He reported a recent news story concerning Mark Finnegan (of Finnegan's RV Center in South Beloit, WI) who has started a non-profit organization called "Vetsroll;" and on May 17, 2010, Vetsroll will

take eight RV's and two charter buses with 128 veterans to see the WWII Memorial in Washington, DC. Mr. Pierce stated that Rolling Thunder Chapter 4 will be doing a Table Ceremony at the VFW in Wausau on March 20, 2010, at 7:00 p.m. He also said on March 27, 2010, Thuy Smith (of Thuy Smith International Outreach) and Channel 13 are putting on a program in Eau Claire that afternoon and a dinner that evening to honor Vietnam veterans; he added that Thuy Smith has a website with additional information.

Mr. Walschinski stated that he still believes in the program for creating access and providing information for senior veterans. He added that this could help Mr. Polus as well as the veterans and their families. He said he agrees with Mr. Maino that television and the internet are the venue to use.

8. **Such other Matters as Authorized by Law:** None.

9. **Adjourn:**

A motion was made by J. Haskins and seconded by J. Walschinski to adjourn at 6:14 p.m. Vote taken. MOTION CARRIED UNANIMOUSLY.

Respectfully submitted,

Lisa M. Alexander
Recording Secretary